(b) whether the Government have communicated their views; and

(c) if so, what they are?

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM : (a) No, Sir.

(b) & (c) Do not arise.

SRI T. P. SRINIVASAVARADAN : Are the Government aware that there is a large volume of opinion that with religious instruction there would be better discipline and better behaviour among boys in the schools?

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM : The Government are aware of it. As a matter of fact we ourselves constituted a committee to go into that question. Meanwhile a Central Committee was appointed and that is why this committee did not proceed further in the matter. We are awaiting the recommendations of the Central Committee with regard to this matter.

Untrained S.S.L.Cs.

* 212 *Q.*—SRI T. P. SRINIVASAVARADAN : Will the Hon. the Minister for Finance be pleased to state—

(a) whether the Special Officer-in-charge of Board Elementary Schools in Chingleput district has requested the Government for permission to employ untrained S.S.LCs.; and

(b) if so, the action taken or proposed to be taken thereon?

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

SRI T. P. SRINIVASAVARADAN : Sir, we were told that the Special Officers-in-charge applied to the Director of Public Instruction for permission to appoint untrained S.S.L.Cs and the Director of Public Instruction advertised the posts twice and could not get Secondary Grade Trained teachers. May I know whether there is a proposal to empower the Special Officers to appoint untrained people if trained people are not available so that there may not be much delay?

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM : Whenever trained teachers are not available, the Director of Public Instruction can empower the Special Officers to recruit untrained S.S.L.Cs. The Government do not at this stage come into the picture.

SRI G. KRISHNAMOORTHY : Are the Government aware that a large number of young boys aged 17 and 18, raw S.S.L.Cs., have been appointed on Rs. 90 plus Rs. 10 in many district board schools and aided elementary schools also?

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM : I do not think that the trained teachers' scale of pay is applicable to untrained men.

SRI G. KRISHNAMOORTHY : While just giving the information, may I request the Hon. Minister to see that higher grade trained teachers . . .

MR. CHAIRMAN : This is not a question.

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SRI G. KRISHNAMOORTHY : Did the Government ever consider the question of appointing higher grade trained teachers, who appeared for the T.S.L.C. Secondary Grade and failed, to teach English in elementary schools, instead of the raw S.S.L.Cs.?

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM : The question of appointing raw S.S.L.Cs. does not arise because I think in almost all districts, a sufficient number of secondary grade trained teachers are available. Whenever there is shortage, we increase the number of institutions to meet it.

Teaching of English

* 213 *Q.*—SRI T. P. SRINIVASAVARADAN : Will the Hon. the Minister for Finance be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether there is any proposal to teach English from IV Standard from 1961-62; and

(*b*) if so, the stage at which the matter now stands?

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM : (*a*) & (*b*) No final decision has been taken in the matter yet.

SRI T. P. SRINIVASAVARADAN : Is the Hon. Minister aware of the opinion that English could as well begin from the fourth standard, and, if so, at what stage is that proposal?

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM : Just now we have begun to teach English from the fifth standard. It is not the intention of the Government to start the teaching of the same reader in the fourth standard. My idea is that in the fourth standard some picture books should be supplied to them so that the students may become conversant with the alphabets and familiarise themselves with some of the words commonly used. This will have to be properly considered before the scheme is introduced.

VIDWAN T. MUTHUKANNAPPAN : கல்லூரிகளில் தமிழ் பயிற்சி மொழியாகி வருவதால் ஆங்கிலத்தின் தரம் குறையாமல் இருக்க பழையபடி முதல் வகுப்பிலிருந்து படிப்படியாக ஆங்கிலம் கற்பிக்க வழி செய்வது நல்லதல்லவா ?

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM : முதல் வகுப்பிலிருந்து சொல்லிக்கொடுப்பது கஷ்டமாக இருக்கும். ஆகையால் தான் 4-வது வகுப்பிலிருந்து சொல்லிக் கொடுத்தால் போதும் என்று கருதுகிறோம். 7, 8 வருஷங்களில் பள்ளிக்கூடத்தில் படித்தால் ஆங்கிலம் பயிலமுடியும். அதைவிட முக்கியமானது ஆசிரியர்களுக்கு இந்த ஆங்கிலம் சொல்லிக்கொடுக்கும் முறை நல்ல முறையில் சொல்லிக்கொடுக்கப்பட வேண்டும்.